

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/S:FGWISNER:CHG

APPROVED BY P - MR HABIB

AF - WESCHAUFELE, JR.

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

S - MR PASSAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 184165

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADORS PORTER AND HELMS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: NKOMO'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN

1. RHODESIAN NATIONALIST LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO IS PLANNING TO VISIT RIYADH ON AUGUST 5 AND TEHRAN ON AUGUST 15 WITH A VIEW TO MEETING WITH KING KHALID AND THE SHAH. NKOMO IS LOOKING FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PERMIT HIS AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS TO OFFSET ITS COSTS, INCLUDING FINANCING A PARTY CONGRESS, AND TO INCREASE ITS ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY IN RHODESIA. NKOMO'S POSITION HAS SUFFERED IN THE PAST MONTHS WITH THE BREAKDOWN IN THE TALKS WITH THE SMITH GOVERNMENT AND HE IS SEEKING NEW RESOURCES TO HELP IN RESTORING HIS POLITICAL BASE.

2. WE HAVE AGREED TO HELP FACILITATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIM TO MEET WITH THE KING AND THE SHAH. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT NKOMO -- OR HIS ASSISTANT NDLOVU -- CONTACT YOU ON

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ARRIVAL AND ASKED NKOMO TO LET US KNOW THE OUTCOME OF

HIS DISCUSSIONS.

3. WE WANT TO BE HELPFUL TO NKOMO WHO CONTINUES TO BE COMMITTED TO A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA AND WHOSE LEADERSHIP OFFERS THE BEST CHANCE TO

SECURE THE MINORITY RIGHTS AND THE MODERATE REGIME WHICH CAN FACILITATE THE NEGOTIATED TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE. NKOMO'S CONTINUED RELEVANCY IS IMPORTANT IN CONTAINING SOVIET AND RADICAL AFRICAN INFLUENCE IN THE RHODESIAN SITUATION.

4. YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE OUR VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF NKOMO AND THE DESIRABILITY OF MEETING WITH HIM KNOWN TO THE KING AND THE SHAH.

ROBINSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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